

## Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NEA-10 AID-20 IGA-02

SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /179 W

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R 031335Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5272

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, CH, TW

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA RECOGNITION OF PRC

REF: STATE 064915

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOB DECISION RECOGNIZE PRC STEMS FROM VARIETY PRESSURES AND CONSIDERATIONS. GOB SUPPORTED ALBANIAN RESOLUTION IN 1971 UNGA. CONTINUATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC HAS THEREFORE PLACED BOTSWANA IN INCONSISTENT AND SOMEWHAT AWKWARD POSITION, RECOGNITION OF PRC AS SOLE, LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA HAS UNQUESTIONABLY BEEN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT KHAMA AND

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PRESIDENTS NYERERE AND KAUNDA WHOSE ASSOCIATIONS

INCREASINGLY CLOSE. PRC ITSELF HAS BROUGHT SOME PRESSURE TO BEAR THROUGH AMBASSADOR IN DAR ES SALAAM AND GOOD OFFICES OF PRESIDENT NYERERE. MOREOVER, AS BOTSWANA HAS BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN OAU AND NON-ALIGNED FORA, AND AS CONSEQUENCE CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF BOYCOTT AGAINST SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCONGRUITY GOB POLICY AND PRACTICE VIS-A-VIS CHINA WAS INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE. FACT GOB DID NOT SEVER RELATIONS WITH ROC SOONER PROBABLY STEMS PRIMARILY FROM RELUCTANCE PROVOKE SOUTH AFRICA AT TIME WHEN DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAG IN PROGRESS ON SUCH MATTERS AS MONETARY AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION AND EEC ASSOCIATION.

2. THERE NO RPT NO LINK BETWEEN U.S. INABILITY PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING FOR BOTZAM ROAD AND GOB DECISION RECOGNIZE PRC. AS INDICATED, ACTION WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH BOTSWANA'S EVOLVING FOREIGN POLICY DIRECTIONS. DURING PAST YEAR, OFFICE OF PRESIDENT HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY COOL TOWARD RESIDENT CHINESE EMBASSY IN HOPES ROC WOULD CLOSE MISSION ON OWN VOLITION. AS CONCERNS CHOICE OF FOREIGN DONORS, "FREEDOM-LOVING" BOTSWANA WILL NOT HESITATE LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, IF TRADITIONAL AID DONORS PROVE UNRESPONSIVE. EMBASSY BELIEVES PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS

IN SEEKING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM ARAB COUNTRIES WILL BE TERMS OF PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENTS AND COMPATIBILITY WITH OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

3. SAG REACTION TO GOB INITIATIVE FAIRLY PROBABLE. WILL ADVISE DETAILS IN SEPTEL. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SAG HAS MORE OR LESS COME TO ACCEPT INEVITABILITY INDEPENDENT BOTSWANA FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT EARLIER SOUTH AFRICAN APPREHENSIONS ABOUT BOTSWANA LARGELY DISSIPATED. GOB OBVIOUSLY GAVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO CONSEQUENCES POSSIBLE ADVERSE SAG RESPONSE, BUT DID PERCEIVE IT AS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION.

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